

Background

In 2006, the *Washington Learns* report on improving education in Washington recommended increased scholarships and support for low-income students as strategies to help raise the overall level of educational attainment among our citizens.

In response to that charge, Governor Chris Gregoire and the 2007 Legislature established the College Bound Scholarship (Senate Bill 5098).

The scholarship, which supports the goals of the *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington*, provides the promise of free tuition and books at Washington colleges, universities and career or vocational schools for qualifying 7th and 8th grade students.

Far too few students from low-income families participate and succeed in postsecondary education in Washington, which ranks 32nd nationally in this category.

At the same time, these students represent the most rapidly growing segment of K-12 students. Up to 33 percent of the 2018 high school graduating class will be under-represented students of color or those from low-income families.

The College Bound Scholarship will strengthen our state's society by offering these students the chance to achieve their full potential in life.

Eligibility

Seventh and 8th grade students whose families are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, and all foster youth are eligible to apply. Students must complete an application and take a pledge promising to maintain a certain grade point average, graduate from high school, and be good citizens.

Eligible students must apply by June 30 of their 8th grade year. Students who are 9th graders during the 2008-09 school year have a one-time exception to this rule and may apply until June 30, 2009.

Requirements

To receive the scholarship, students must:

- Submit a College Bound application/pledge during their 7th or 8th grade year;
- Graduate from a Washington high school or home school with at least a 2.0 grade point average;
- Be accepted to an eligible Washington university, college, technical or community college;
- Meet the family income requirements at the time of graduation (65 percent or less than the state's median family income);
- Not be convicted of a felony throughout middle and high school; and
- Be Washington residents.

Funding

The 2007 Legislature allocated \$7.4 million for the program, which will pay for the first two years of college for this year's 8th graders, and the first year of college for this year's 7th graders.

This was just the initial investment. The Legislature will either continue to invest funds for future enrollment, or will pay out funds from future biennia to fulfill the state's obligation to College Bound students.

The legislation directs that the funds be invested in the state's Guaranteed Education Tuition program (GET) and held in trust by the HECB.

Where can recipients use their College Bound Scholarships?

Students will be able to earn certificates and degrees at eligible Washington two year- and four-year schools including technical and community colleges, universities, and independent and private career schools..

The amount of the scholarships will be based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities and will cover the amount of tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) not covered by other state financial aid awards.

The scholarship is intended to fill the gap between the State Need Grant and the actual cost of college, while also offering a measure of certainty for younger students who otherwise might fear they won't be able to afford college.

Students can use the scholarship for four years or until they receive their bachelor's degree. The scholarship must be used within five years of high school graduation.

Scholarship recipients are not guaranteed admission to a particular school, and must still apply and be accepted into college.

College Bound Income Eligibility

2008-2009

Number in family	Family Income in 2007
2	\$25,900
3	\$32,600
4	\$39,300
5	\$45,900
6	\$52,600
7	\$59,200
8	\$65,900

Add \$6,700 for each additional family member.

To apply

Students can apply directly online: www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound – or request paper applications using the contact information below.

Applications also are available at middle and junior high schools. Eligible students have until June 30 each year to apply.

Contact information:

- › Phone: 1-888-535-0747
- › Email: collegebound@hecb.wa.gov
- › www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound